

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1913

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, EC
SUBJECT: NUEVA MAGAZINE ACCUSES CIA OF INTERVENING IN
CAMPESENO AFFAIRS

REF: LEMA MEMCON 1-24-78

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE MOST RECENT ISSUE OF THE LEFTIST
NUEVA MAGAZINE HAS RAISED THE ANTE IN A LOCAL BATTLE BETWEEN
COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST CAMPESENO ORGANIZATIONS BY
ACCUSING THE CIA OF INTERVENING IN LOCAL CAMPESENO AFFAIRS
IN ORDER TO RETARD SOCIAL PROGRESS. IT APPEARS THAT THE
MAGAZINE'S STRONG ATTACK MAY REFLECT THE GROWING SUCCESS
OF THE NON-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, A RUNNING BATTLE HAS
CONTINUED BETWEEN COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST CAMPESENO
ORGANIZATIONS. DURING RECENT YEARS, GROUPS AFFILIATED TO
THE COMMUNIST CTE OR MARXIST CEDOC LABOR CONFEDERATIONS HAVE
BEEN THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL CAMPESENO ORGANIZATIONS.
LATELY OTHER GROUPS, PRIMARILY SELF-LED INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS,
HAVE BEGUN TO SURFACE AND COMPETE. IN THE JUST-PUBLISHED
EDITION OF THE LEFTIST MONTHLY, NUEVA, THE US CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IS IDENTIFIED AS THE GODFATHER OF
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THESE NEW GROUPS.

3. THE NUEVA ARTICLE, REplete WITH THE CIA SEAL, AND
PHOTOS OF THE US EMBASSY, PRESENTS THE THESIS THAT
THE CTE-CEDOC AFFILIATED GROUPS ARE THE ONLY PROPER
VEHICLES FOR RURAL WORKERS AND THAT THE INDIAN ORGANIZA-
TIONS (PRIMARILY ONE HEADED BY ANTONIO LEMA, CALLED

MODELINDE) ARE RACIST IN NATURE AND SPONSORED BY THE CIA IN THE INTEREST OF PREVENTING REAL AND NECESSARY SOCIAL CHANGE IN ECUADOR. THE SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS AND THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION ARE IDENTIFIED AS CIA FRONTS, WHILE THE FOUNDATION AND AID ARE LISTED AS TWO OF MODELINDE'S PRIME SUPPORTERS.

4. COMMENT: THE NUEVA ARTICLE FOLLOWS A SERIES OF PAID NEWSPAPER ATTACKS BY THE CTE AND CEDOC ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST MODELINDE AND LEMA, ACCUSING BOTH OF BEING INSTRUMENTS OF THE CIA. LEMA IS A US EDUCATED OTAVALO INDIAN WHO HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY MODERATE LEFT IDEOLOGY AND HIS EFFORTS TO HAVE ECUADOR'S INDIANS CONTROL THEIR OWN INSTITUTIONS (SEE REF). ALTHOUGH IT IS UNCERTAIN WHY NUEVA WAS CHOSEN AS ANOTHER INSTRUMENT OF THIS BATTLE (IT IS READY BY FEW CAMPESINOS), THIS RAISING OF THE STAKES MUST BE AN INDICATION OF LEMA'S INCREASING SUCCESS. ALSO, THE CAMPESINO DISPUTE OFFERS NUEVA ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY TO TARGET THE CIA AND OTHER US INSTITUTIONS.

5. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, LEMA'S GROUP IS NOT ASSISTED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION OR BY AID. LEMA HAS INCORRECTLY COMPLAINED TO A POLITICAL OFFICER THAT THE FOUNDATION WAS ASSISTING THOSE VERY SAME GROUPS AFFILIATED TO THE CEDOC AND CTE.
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6. GIVEN THE INDIANS' TRADITIONAL MISTRUST OF OUTSIDERS, LEMA DOES APPEAR TO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF BELONGING TO THE CONCERNED GROUP. HOWEVER, EXAMINING THE RESOURCES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO THE CTE AND CEDOC, HE APPEARS TO BE OUTGUNNED. LEMA AND MODELINDE, FEELING THE STRONG PRESSURE, HAVE MADE TENTATIVE APPROACHES TO CEOSL, THE CTE'S DEMOCRATIC COUNTERPART, SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND POSSIBLE AFFILIATION.
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